(e) and (f) The Steel Industry has been representing to the Govt, regarding sluggish growth in the demand for steel, the main reasons for which are:

(i) Inadequate Govt, expenditure on infrastructure;

(ii) Sluggish demand in the steel consuming sectors;

(iii) Overall economic slowdown in the country;

(iv) Concessional rate of duty on steel imports for infrastructure projects;

(v) Blockade of export markets due to Anti-Dumping/CVD duties on exports of steel from India by developed countries.

(g) Government have taken several steps to help industry in the country, which *inter-alia* include the following:

Higher Allocation for infrastructure and housing in the last two Budgets.

— A National Campaign for increasing the demand of steel, especially in non-traditional sectors, such as, rural and agro-based industrial sector has been launched.

— Rationalisation of duties of raw materials for steel making.

— Rationalisation Duty Entitlement Pass Book (DEPB) rates for steel exports have been carried out to boost exports.

— Setting up a 'Steel Exporters Forum' to help exporters to overcome bottlenecks in exports.

— Anti-dumping duty on Hot Rolled coils imported from Ukraine and Russia to check imports.

Jobs to kith and kins of employees in B.S.P.

† 900. SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that jobs are not being provided to the kith and kins of the employees working in Bhilai Steel Plant in case they are found medically unfit; and

† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, when such decision was taken and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) In Bhilai Steel Plant (BSP), the dependents of the employees who are declared medically unfit are provided employment on compassionate grounds in a phased manner, keeping in view the need, requirement, recruitment budget provision and other policy parameters.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Labour productivity in the Steel Sector

901. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that labour productivity in the Indian Steel Sector is the lowest in the world;

(b) if so, the comparative details of labour productivity in the steel sector in selected countries;

(c) the reasons for low productivity in India; and

(d) the measures taken to raise productivity of labour in the Steel Sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) to (c) International comparisons of labour productivity are of uncertain value on account of differences in technology used, capacity utilisation, level of automation, extent of outsourcing etc. In India, the labour productivity is low for the older generation plants of Steel Authority of India Ltd and Tata Iron & Steel Company Ltd. However, for the modern generation plants like Essar Steel Ltd, Jindal Vijaynagar Steel Ltd and Ispat Industries Ltd, labour productivity is almost at